Preliminary Amendment Application No. 10/607,537

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable consideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the

following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-170 are pending in the present application. Claim 33 has been amended to

depend from claim 23 and Figure 14A of the drawings has also been amended. A letter

submitting drawing sheet(s) together with a replacement drawing is being filed concurrently

herewith.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment, no further issues are believed to be

outstanding in the present application, and the present application is believed to be in

condition for formal allowance. An early and favorable action is therefore respectfully

requested.

Should the Examiner deem that any further action is necessary to place the present

application in condition for allowance, he or she is encouraged to contact Applicants'

undersigned representative at the below listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,

MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.

Customer Number 22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000 Fax: (703) 413 -2220

(OSMMN 08/03)

Steven P. Weihrouch Attorney of Record Registration No. 32,829

I:\ATTY\SPW\2312 TOKYO ELECTRON\TEAL\230112 TAKAYAMA\230112.PRELAMEND.DOC